

Appn. No. 09/730,247  
Response dated November 3, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

REMARKS

Introduction

This is in response to an Office Action dated October 3, 2003. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 are independent.

Restriction Under 35 U.S.C. § 121

In the Office Action, claims 1-21 were subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, restriction to one of the following inventions was required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a network based expense system, classified in class 705 subclass 32; or
- II. Claims 12-21, drawn to a server, classified in class 705, subclass 32.

The Office Action contends that the inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination, and that inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05 (c)). The Office Action further contends that, in the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed since the particulars of the subcombination are not found in

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the combination, and that the subcombination has separate utility such as standalone general use computer.

In response to the office action, applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to pursue the claims of invention I, claims 1-11, in the present application. Applicants' traversal is based upon the belief that a search for all of the claims would not place an undue burden on the examiner as all of the claims have been classified in the same class and subclass.

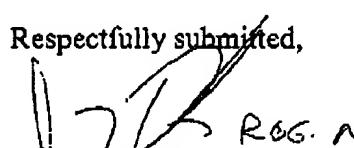
### CONCLUSION

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims presently in the application (i.e., claims 1-21) are in condition for allowance. If the examiner cannot issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss outstanding issues.

Authority is hereby given to charge any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

For

  
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